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LSMX - GOLD STRIKE  
MINE

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The Salt Lake Tribune

## Money-Losing Utah Gold Mine Closing Down, Blames Regulations

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUNLOCK — Southern Utah's largest and oldest gold mine will quit operating in a matter of months.

The Goldstrike Mine, located west of Gunlock, has already stopped excavating for gold. The cycle of extracting gold from the rock and reclamation is expected to be completed in 1996.

Environmental concerns and financial constraints have led to the

mine's shutdown, according to Jim Smith, the mine's general manager.

"In the past, we had to do an environmental assessment," Smith said. "But now, the feds want us to do a full-blown Environmental Impact Statement if we want to do any more mining. It could take two to three years and that's not worth it."

Smith said other environmental issues, including the possible list-

ing of area rivers as "wild and scenic," will harm the company.

"The Beaver Dam Wash is right here and they'd list it as wild and scenic and we certainly wouldn't be able to mine here anymore," he said. Dwindling revenue also prompted the decision.

"The price of gold is way down and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize we're losing money," he said.